



USAID | UKRAINE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COMBATING HIV/AIDS



Photo: Elena Shevchenko

**IRD volunteers at a World AIDS
Memorial Day street campaign in Crimea,
May 21, 2006**

THE CHALLENGE

Ukraine has the most severe HIV/AIDS epidemic in Eastern Europe & Central Asia. The latest figures from UNAIDS estimate that 377,000 adults and children are living with HIV/AIDS; as of June 2007, the Ukrainian Ministry of Health had registered more than 113,000 cases.

Ukraine has one the fastest growing rate of HIV/AIDS in the world, with rates of infection increasing by 33% annually since 1994. It is estimated that by 2014, 3.5% of the Ukraine's adult population, 820,000 people, may be living with HIV. Although concentrated in high risk groups, HIV/AIDS in Ukraine is shifting to the general population. Today, two-thirds of all new HIV infections are among youth between 20-24, and 39% of the newly infected are women. The HIV/AIDS infection rate stands at 1.46%. The mother-to-child HIV/AIDS transmission rate is at about 10%. Every fifth child born to an HIV+ mother is abandoned.

OVERVIEW

The Government of Ukraine has indicated an increased commitment to addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, a USG health priority.

As part of its commitment to investing in people, USAID is partnering with Ukraine to better the overall health of Ukrainians by strengthening health standards and building systems to make Ukrainians better informed health consumers. The goal is to increase the availability of quality services and generate demand for these services. Concurrently, USAID supports development of a civil society that collaborates with government to expand access to and ensure transparent health management.

OUR PROGRAMS

HIV/AIDS

USAID continues to provide support to reduce the transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS through the: 1) promotion and adoption of preventive behaviors; 2) expansion of access to quality HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services for most-at-risk populations; 3) development of public and nongovernmental institutional capacities to plan, manage and evaluate HIV/AIDS programs; 4) mitigation of stigma and discrimination toward those affected; 5) prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission; 6) implementation of approaches to address the needs of HIV-affected children; and 7) strengthening of the policy environment for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support. USAID also supports a Ukrainian Media Partnership to improve awareness of HIV/AIDS among the general population and specific target groups such as youth, injecting drug users and other vulnerable populations. In implementing program activities, USAID programs strengthen collaboration between local governmental departments, NGOs and communities in high priority regions.

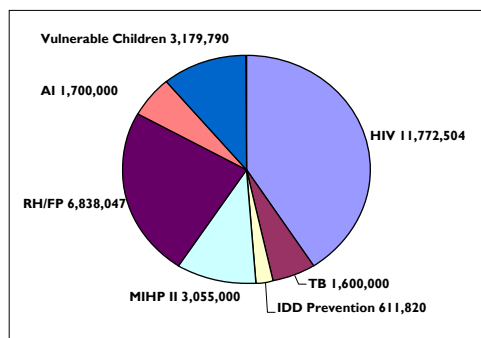
In 2008, to address the particular needs of HIV-positive injecting drug users, USAID will initiate a pilot program of substitution maintenance treatment, which will support 150 injecting drug users with comprehensive treatment and care services.

USAID programs leverage Global Fund (GF) grant resources by providing technical and management support to organizations implementing GF activities and by adding resources to specialized technical areas, such as prevention of mother to child transmission, TB/HIV co-infection and orphans and vulnerable children.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Increase HIV/AIDS awareness and lower the level of HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination.
- Expand access to prevention, treatment, care and support services by most at-risk populations.
- Decrease rates of HIV/AIDS infection and mother-to-child transmission.
- Prevent abandonment of infected newborns.
- Build institutional capacity to deliver and manage HIV/AIDS services.

Current Health Programs obligations FY 04-07



Implementing Partners

HIV/AIDS: International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, International Relief and Development, Inc. (IRD) and Constella International, Inc.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HIV/AIDS

- 2006 Establishment of a National Council on TB and HIV/AIDS, which serves as one national coordination body, demonstrated Ukraine's commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS and willingness to involve civil society in the decision making processes.
- Successful advocacy efforts have reinforced Ukraine's commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS. A presidential decree "On Additional Measures to Counteract HIV/AIDS in Ukraine" was issued on December 12, 2007. The decree emphasizes the need to allocate sufficient state funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and make legislative changes to improve drug registration and procurement systems, and to ensure that drug quality is in line with WHO quality standards.
- Training of mother and child health care service providers in eight priority oblasts has improved the quality of voluntary counseling and testing, and strengthened community-based support for HIV-positive pregnant women and mothers.
- Grants to HIV-service NGOs have increased coverage of HIV prevention and information services to the most at risk populations from 12 to 45.5 percent in regions with the highest HIV prevalence rates.
- Support to more than 80 health facilities and the training of more than 1,000 doctors and midwives in prevention of mother to child transmission has provided more than 45,000 pregnant women with access to quality HIV counseling, testing and treatment services.
- National protocols on voluntary counseling and testing, and antiretroviral treatment for HIV pregnant women have been developed and adopted by the Ministry of Health.
- 55 HIV voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) centers supported through USAID have provided over 15,000 people with voluntary counseling and testing services.
- Over 400 public and nongovernmental representatives have been trained on strategic planning in HIV/AIDS programs.
- Radio and television public service announcements run in regional and national media, and journalist training on the medical, social, economic and political aspects of HIV/AIDS has raised awareness of HIV/AIDS issues.

For more information, please contact USAID/Ukraine Development Outreach & Communications, tel. (380 44) 537 4600 or visit <http://ukraine.usaid.gov>

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